

# WATER DISTRICT #11 BEAR RIVER

## Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 5, 2008

### Attending

Dennis L. Bird  
Lee C Ream  
Bill Robison

Marc Gibbs  
Mark Mathews  
Steve Meek

Brad H Bearnson  
Tim Luke  
Liz Cresto  
Connely Baldwin  
Jerry Jenkins  
Larry Pitcher  
Don B. Harris  
Paul Nelson  
Rock Holbrook  
Austin Moses

### Representing

Peg Leg Irrigation  
Ream Crockett  
Black Otter Irrigation  
Dingle Irrigation  
Last Chance Canal Co.  
Last Chance Canal Co.  
Riverdale Preston Irrigation  
Riverdale Irrigation Co.  
Smith Bosen  
IDWR  
IDWR  
Pacifcorp Energy  
West Cache Irrigation  
West Cache Irrigation  
Gentile Valley Canal  
Preston/Montpelier  
Water Master  
Treasurer

Connely Baldwin opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and asked for nominations for meeting chairman. Bill Robison moved to nominate Marc Gibbs as chairman. Connely seconded. All approved.

Marc Gibbs asked each person to introduce themselves, which they did. Marc reported that advisory board member Joe Larsen had had heart bypass surgery the previous day and is doing as well as possible. Mark Mathews reported that his father, Dean Mathews was not doing well and was awaiting a liver transplant.

Lee Ream moved to adopt the prepared agenda; Bill Robison seconded. All approved. Austin Moses was appointed meeting secretary. Connely Baldwin reviewed the meeting high-lights of the February 6, 2007 and March 20, 2007 meetings from the meeting minutes and moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dennis Bird seconded. All approved. Marc reported that all difficulties with Mr. Petersen had been settled.

Advisory Board Election: Steve Meek moved to keep the same advisory board. Dennis Bird seconded. Marc Gibbs reported that he may not be serving, but there would be someone from the Last Chance Canal Company represented. He commented that he was trying to get some younger individuals to take part. The vote was unanimous to keep the same Board.

Water Master Election: Bill Robison moved to retain Rock Holbrook as Water Master. He said he was very pleased with the effort put forth during the past year. Lee Ream seconded. Don Harris and Marc Gibbs commended Rock on his work. Connely reported that Rock had accounted well for the expenses and work he has performed. Steve Meek also felt that Rock had done a good job. All approved the reappointment.

Treasurer Election: Marc reported that Austin Moses was currently serving in that position. Bill Robison moved to retain Austin as Treasurer. Connely Baldwin seconded. All approved.

Water Master Report: Rock Holbrook thanked the group for their support. He said it was truly a balancing act to keep as much water in Bear Lake as possible, while juggling the rights of the senior and junior water users. He reported that current water levels in the Bear Lake Drainage were at 99% of normal. He thanked the State IDWR for their assistance in learning and accomplishing his new job.

Water Use for 2007: Liz Cresto from IDWR presented the Bear River drainage water right accounting model, showing the relationship between the senior, junior and storage users. She reported that 2007 was below average for snowfall but the season ended with enough water for the needs of the users. Storage use made up for the low snowfall.

Liz Cresto also reported that the Idaho Department of Transportation may need some help reducing flows later in this year in order to replace some highway bridges. Steve Meek said he thought ITD would not start until October. There continued a discussion of flows in the latter part of the year, with the conclusion that ITD may be able to start as early as mid-September. There will be significant correlation needed.

Liz concluded her presentation by explaining the Terrell Decree from 1924. She said it established meadow rights and agricultural land rights. Ag rights have priority mostly later in the season with most meadow rights gaining priority early in the season.

Bear Lake Storage Forecast: Connely Baldwin reported on the storage accumulation and release. He projected that if the Lake rises only 1.5 feet, only 84% of allocation will be possible. If the Lake rises 6 feet 97% of allocation will be possible. The low point for the season was 5907.63 feet on November 4, 2007 and the high point was 5912.58 feet on May 18, 2007. There was a short discussion of snow pack levels and projected levels of Bear Lake.

Connely also noted that Pacificorp will change flow lines at Grace to accommodate floaters & kayakers beginning April 1, 2008. Also, repairs to the flow line will be made starting in April. He added that a number of grants are available to keep flows up for fish.

Idaho Department of Water Resources Issues: Tim Luke thanked Rock Holbrook for a job well done this past year. He said that water measurement issues were a concern for

the Department. Of 36 pumps visited, only 5 had measuring devices. He added that the Department will be issuing measurement device orders shortly and recommended magnetic flow meters due to the high sediment levels. He gave short instructions on how they are to be installed and said they need to be in place before the start of the season. He also mentioned the difficulty of tracing water rights in order to get notice out to the users.

**Tributary Regulation Activities:** Cindy Bird spoke about tributary regulations and the violations which prevent water reaching the Bear River. She also said that the Soda Springs IDWR Office would be closed after this year's field season. Most operations will be covered from Idaho Falls. Tim Luke reinforced that the budget cuts were from the Governor and that the Department may lose a couple of positions.

There was some discussion concerning whether the department has access to private property in order to measure water. The conclusion was that the order requiring measurement devices also requires access to perform the measurement. Tim Luke will send an order and violation notice to the offending individual.

**Financial Statements:** Austin Moses presented the financial reports for the year ended January 31, 2008. Total operating revenues were \$66,600 and total operating expenses were \$68,677. Cash in checking and savings at year end was \$22,275. Marc Gibbs asked if the audit had been done for a previous year. Austin responded that it had not yet been done.

**Budget and assessments:** Austin Moses presented the proposed budget for the 2008 fiscal year. Estimated expenditures were presented at \$85,483. These included water master salary of \$42,000 and wages in the amount of \$10,000 for an assistant. Accounting fees for Austin were increased from \$200 per month to \$375 per month. A cash reserve of \$16,096 was also proposed. Marc asked if there was money set aside for the audit of 2005 and review of the past year. Austin indicated it had been overlooked. Marc suggested it be added. Brad Bearnson moved to approve the budget with \$5,000 added for the accounting additions. Bill Robison seconded. All approved.

Liz Cresto noted that the Bureau of Reclamation has money available for 2025 Challenge Grants. These could help with measurement devices.

Marc Gibbs said that having water flow and storage level information available on one web site would be useful. There continued a discussion of how to bring all the information together on one site and whether the grant money could be obtained for that purpose.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Water District #11 Annual Meeting  
Caribou County Emergency Services Building  
February 5, 2008 2:00 P.M.

Agenda

- Election of Meeting Chairman and Meeting Secretary – Connely Baldwin (standing in for Kelly Holt, previous years meeting chairman)
- Review and Approval of Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting and Follow-up Special Meeting
- Advisory Board Election – Meeting Chairman
- Watermaster Election – Meeting Chairman
- Treasurer Election – Meeting Chairman
- Watermaster Report – Rock Holbrook
- Water Use for 2007 – Liz Cresto
- Bear Lake Storage Forecast – Connely Baldwin
- Tributary Regulation Activities by the Department of Water Resources – Cindy Bird
- Other Department of Water Resources Issues – Tim Luke
- 2007 Financial Results and Status of Audits – Austin Moses
- 2008 Budget and Assessment – Austin Moses
- Review of Un-paid Assessments – Austin Moses
- Other business

# Water District 11 Proposed Budget 2008

<u>Description</u>		
Salary Watermaster	\$42,000.00	
Wage - Watermaster Assistant	10,000.00	
Total Salary and wages		\$52,000.00
Payroll benefits		
SS & Medicare	3,978.00	
Workers Comp Ins	3,122.60	
Retirement	2,616.60	
Total payroll taxes		9,717.20
Accounting		4,500.00
Board Meetings		150.00
Records update		5,000.00
Equipment Purchases		0.00
Miscellaneous		500.80
Postage and Delivery		50.00
Rent		2,400.00
Repairs		500.00
Supplies		2,000.00
Telephone & internet		1,600.00
Travel		
Meals	250.00	
Mileage	6,565.00	
Other	250.00	
Total travel		7,065.00
Total Estimated Expenditures		85,483.00
<i>Add: Audit &amp; review</i>		<i>5,000.00</i>
Cash reserve		(16,096.00)
Estimated cash carryover 1-31-08		22,000.00
Amount to be raised by assessment		<u>\$79,579.00</u>
		<i>84,579.00</i>